

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 12, 24, and 25 have been amended; claims 18-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and claims 26 and 27 have been newly added. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-17 and 24-27 will be pending, of which claims 1, 12, 24, and 25 are independent. Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bouve et al. (U.S. Patent 5,682,525 A) in view of Hancock et al. (U.S. Patent 6,202,023 B1). Claims 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang et al. (U.S. 2002/0052674 A1) in view of Hancock. Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang and Hancock in view of brochure "How People Use Economic Census Data," 1996. Claims 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hancock.

Each of the independent claims has been amended to indicate that a user of the system, at a prior time, has created a list of pre-configured geographical locations by orally defining a name of a geographical location while in the geographical location. One benefit of these pre-configured geographical locations is that the user can create a user-specific name whenever the

user is inclined to do so. This does not require that a user first map out all places that he or she may want to designate in advance, but rather allows the user to create the name on the fly.

Specifically, independent claim 1 is directed to a method for searching a database in an information retrieval system according to user-identified geographical location information using a mobile communications device operating on a wireless network, where the method includes “detecting whether the request is to search the database for items of interest located in a vicinity of the geographical location of the user’s mobile communications device or of a different geographical location identified by the user, wherein information regarding the different geographical location is pre-configured by the user at a prior time, by orally creating a specified name using the mobile communication device and associating the specified name with the different geographical location while the user is in the different geographical location.”

Independent claim 12 recites an information retrieval system for identifying items of interest located within a vicinity of a user-specified geographical location that includes “a geographic locations processor for receiving a user-defined geographical location for searching the database records unit, said user-defined geographical location being pre-configured by the user at a prior time, by orally creating a specified name using a mobile communication device and associating the specified name with a geographical location while the user is in the geographical location.”

Independent claim 24 recites a method for performing a search on an information retrieval system to identify items of interest in a vicinity of a user-defined geographical location including “configuring a table of names of geographical locations defined by a user and

geographical locations corresponding to the names, each name being defined at a prior time, by orally creating the name using the mobile communication device and associating the name with the geographical location while the user is in the geographical location.”

Finally, independent claim 25 defines a method for searching an information retrieval system for items of interest in a vicinity of a user-specified location, including “determining whether the user requests to search according to the user’s present location or a location stored in a table of locations pre-configured by the user at a prior time, by orally creating a specified name using the mobile communication device and associating the specified name with a geographical location while the user is in the geographical location.”

None of the references cited by the Examiner teach or suggest allowing the user to orally create, on the fly, names for geographical locations while the user is in the geographical location let alone allowing the user to later use the names while searching for items of interest near the named geographical locations.

For example, the Examiner repeatedly relies on a teaching in Hancock at col. 8, line 59 to col. 9, line 10 for a teaching that a user can pre-configure a geographical location. It is true that Hancock teaches that a user has identified her house as “MARY.SMITH.HOUSE.” But it is equally true that Hancock does not teach a user orally creating a name for a geographical location and associating the name with the geographical location while in that geographical location.

Serial No.: 09/710,955
Art Unit: 2177

Attorney's Docket No.: BS00-143
Page 13

Moreover, none of the references teach designating a geographical location as the geographical location of the user's mobile communication device, as recited in dependent claims 6, 17, 26, and 27.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

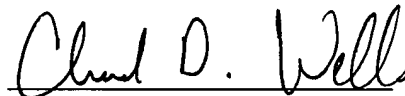
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Attachments: none

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